MOTION FOR OFFERING FELICITATIONS TO HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA AND THE ROYAL FAMILY ON THE BIRTH OF HIS HIGHNESS THE PRINCE AVITTAM TIRUNAL.

Mr. James Fletcher (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): At the outset let me thank you, Sir, for the permission which you so readily accorded to me for putting before this Council a motion offering felicitations to His Highness the Maharaja, to Her Highness the Maharani and the Royal Family on the birth of His Highness's royal nephew, His Highness, Prince Avittam Tirunal. Therefore, it has become my pleasant task and privilege to place this motion for the unanimous acceptance of this House. It is a matter for congratulation to every Travancorean to feel that a prince is born in this illustrious and ancient royal family. Travancoreans have been looking forward with great anxiety for this happy event and the feeling of exultation was unanimous throughout the length and breadth of the State when the royal birth was proclaimed. At this time when the various States of India are evolving towards beneficial rule, our State under its benevolent and successful rulers has reached the model of good Government. The ruler of Travancore has always been a kind and benevolent father to his subjects. "Prajasukham" has always been their ideal. So much so, Travancore has ever been progressive and today she stands foremost among the Indian States. On account of the keen interest our successive sovereigns have been taking in the welfare of their subjects there is appreciable development in the various fields of human activities. The needs of the people are carefully studied by our sovereigns and all that could be done is being done to serve those needs. The pomp and splendour of the eastern Courts are unheard of in Travancore. It is not out of place to mention that the royal household expenditure is only an infinitesimal fraction of the State revenue. This clearly shows that plain living and high thinking have ever been the characteristic of our Royal house. Sir, it is a well-known fact that Travancore stands first and foremost in the matter of education. It is no wonder, Sir, that when members of the Royal House were not only patrons of learning but they themselves were masters of poetry, literature and art that our State should be in the forefront in education. Under the beneficent rule of the successive members of the royal family the people of Travancore have been happy, contended and prosperous and loyalty is in the very blood of every subject. Especially now, when we have an ideal sovereign, who transcends his predecessors in every high and admirable quality, our loyalty is

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more deep and profound. In His Highness we have a ruler who has dedicated his life to the welfare of his people and to the progress and prosperity of the State. The star of the east, as it is stated, has risen to the glory of the East. The epoch-making event of the Temple Entry Proclamation has made the statesmen of the world to ponder a while with wonder and admiration. The dynamic force set free by the proclamation has felt its way throughout the length and breadth of India and now every province in India is ready to follow the successful lead taken by our sovereign. Travancore has found a strong and dignified place among the civilized countries of the world. Therefore, it is a privilege and duty of every citizen of Travancore to be proud of their beloved sovereign and the royal family. The various schemes for the political, economic and industrial progress of the State which are engaging the attention of His Highness and His Highness's trusted minister, a statesman of imperial reputation, are bound to enhance the well-being and prosperity of the State.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not add a few humble words of tribute to Her Highness the Maharani, the worthy mother of a worthy son. It was Her Highness who infused the ideal of manhood coupled with a culture of a very high order in His Highness the Maharaja. May the almighty shower His choicest blessings on the Royal Household. Therefore, I place before this House for your acceptance the motion that "This Council begs leave to tender its most loyal and respectful congratulations to His Gracious Highness the Maharaja, to Her Highness the Maharani and to the Royal Family on the birth of the Royal Prince Sri Avittam Tirunal. It also requests the President of the Council to convey to His Highness these humble expressions of the sentiments of this House."

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I rise to second the motion that has been placed before the House by my honourable friend Mr. James Fletcher. I am sure, Sir, that in various parts of the country heartfelt joy and sentiments of loyalty were spontaneously expressed as soon as it was announced that the Royal House of Travancore was blessed with an heir to the throne. I do not want to take up more time of the House and so I heartily second the resolution and commend it for the unanimous acceptance of the House.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I rise to endorse in full the heart-felt sentiments expressed by the two previous speakers. For those who believe in Hindu sastras the Birth of the Prince is full of significance. നാ വിഷ്ണു പൃഥിവിപതീ Rajas are incarnations of God Vishnu. So the birth of a prince is an incarnation of God Vishnu. The month, the day and the hour of birth of the Prince

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[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

are all equally important. It was in that particular month that Dharma Yudha called Bharatha Yudha at Kurukshetra was fought and success of Dharma was established. Lord Sri Krishna speaks very highly of this month in the Gita as follows :—

മാസാനാം മാർഗ്ഗശീർഷോഽഹം
ഋതൂനാം കുസുമാകരഃ

Of all the month, I am the month of Margasirsha *viz.*, Dhanu. Special pujas are being generally conducted in this month by the Hindus.

This is the most sacred of all months. The star also is equally important. The devatha for this star is Ashtavasukkal who are the custodians of Ashta Ayeswaryam. A new era of prosperity for Travancore is assured in this Royal birth. With these words, I join with the other speakers in tendering my humble congratulations and cordial wishes for a long and prosperous life for the newly born Prince.

Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib: Sir, I fully endorse the views expressed by my honourable colleagues and heartily support the motion before the House.

Mr. M. Govindan (*Nominated*): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments given expression to by the honourable members who spoke previously about the happy event and heartily support the motion.

Mr. Abdul Tayeb Sheikh Kaderbhoy (*Commerce and Industry South*): Sir, I also join with the other speakers in supporting this motion and request you to send the congratulations and heart-felt felicitations of this House to the Royal Family.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: Sir, I wish to associate myself with the sentiments given expression to by the mover of the motion. Sir, in Travancore, the birth of a Prince is considered to be a very important event, for we the loyal Travancoreans have experienced for a very long time the beneficial gifts that flow from the ruling family for generations. As far as our loyalty is concerned we have become the envy of other native States. It has also been our glory and pride that we have been blessed always with a beneficent ruling house. It is therefore no wonder that Travancoreans as a whole are bound together by the strong tie of loyalty. This loyalty is natural, inborn and spontaneous and the prime reason for such an enviable position of the ruling house has always been the result of the anxious concern of the members of that House for the welfare of the people entrusted to their care and for the fulfilment of their legitimate wishes. The birth of Prince Avittam Tirunal has given us, the people of Travancore, rare happiness and jubilation.

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It is *our* good fortune that the Travancore Royal House has been blessed with a Prince who in the fullness of time, will surely prove to be a great benefactor to us the loyal subjects of the State.

Mr. Eric Hall (*Travancore Planters*): In rising to support this motion, may I, Sir, assure you that the planting community which I represent fully associates itself with the sentiments expressed, and I would tender our loyal congratulations to the Royal House of Travancore on the happy event, which happened recently.

President: The motion before the House is :—

'This Council begs to tender its most loyal and respectful congratulations to His Gracious Highness the Maharaja, to Her Highness the Maha Rani and the Royal Family on the birth of the Royal Prince Avittam Tirunal'.

The motion has been proposed and seconded and unanimously supported. We shall best carry it standing.

The motion was carried unanimously, the whole House standing.

President: I shall have the greatest pleasure in communicating it to His Highness and to the members of His family.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

Taxes on Income.

Mr. K. Parameśvara Panickar: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 4,230 under 11 – Taxes on Income.

The Demand is composed of two parts, Rs. 2,735 on account of the expenditure involved for the retention of the services of the Income Tax Adviser for a further period of six months in 1113 and the balance for the reorganisation of the Income Tax Department. I shall briefly explain the proposals for the contemplated, reorganisation.

At present two Income Tax Collectors are functioning. It is proposed to appoint a third Collector on the same salary of Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 which the other two are getting now. It is also proposed to appoint an auditor on Rs. 75 to 100. The auditor will be attached to the office of the new Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax and will audit the accounts produced in that office and also before the three Income Tax Collectors.

As honourable members are aware, the Income Tax Regulation was first introduced in Travancore in 1096 M. E., corresponding to 1920. The Regulation mainly follows the British Indian Act. The working of the Regulation was entrusted to the officers, of various grades, here of the Revenue Department, the Tahsildars

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